Winchester
Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1925.

JACOB & JOHNSON, PRINTERS, WINCHESTER

TO THE

Winchester Rural District Council,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1925. In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, this has to be a Survey Report, which is a more detailed one than is usually made, and deals not only with the year in question, but also with any measure of progress, &c., made during the past five years.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 58,903 acres.

Population—

Census, 1921	-	12,266.
Estimated, 1925	-	13,116.
For Birth Rate	-	13,140 } as given by the
For Death Rate	-	11,760 } Registrar General.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 2695.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 2681.

Rateable value—Land, £22372; Buildings, £90311. Total, £112683.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£399 12s. 1d.

The estimated population for 1925 is based on the fact that there was an increase of 170 per annum between the Censuses 1911 and 1921.

Physical Features, and General Character of the District.—The District is situated in the centre of Hampshire, and consists of an oblong stretch of country having an area of 61,000 acres running north and south, being seventeen miles

long and about nine wide. In the centre is the City of Winchester, which is a separate Urban District. To the extreme north, at Sutton Scotney, is the River Test, which runs from east to west. The Itchen River comes into the District at Itchen Abbas about midway on the eastern border, and runs west through the villages of Easton and Martyr Worthy to King's Worthy, which is situated two miles north of Winchester. From here it runs south for seven miles through Winchester and Twyford, where it leaves the District. The country bordering on these rivers is flat, but a considerable area of the remaining part consists of chalk hills. About five miles to the south of Winchester the chalk dips down, and the London clay comes to the surface at Colden Common and Fisher's Pond. Further south, at Fair Oak and Horton Heath, we have sand and gravel.

Sub-Districts.—The District is sub-divided for statistical purposes into four parts :—

The Suburban immediately surrounds Winchester, and is made up of the Parishes of Weeke Without, Abbott's Barton, a portion of Winnall, and Chilcombe Without.

Micheldever.—This is the most northerly portion of the District, and consists of the Parishes of East Stratton, Micheldever, Stoke Charity, Hunton, and Wonston.

Worthy lies between the Micheldever District and Winchester. It is made up of the Parishes of Sparsholt, Lainston, Crawley, Littleton, the Worthys, Easton, Itchen Abbas, and Avington.

Twyford is that portion to the south of Winchester, the Parishes being—Twyford, Compton, Fair Oak, Owslebury, Morestead, and Stoke Park.

Occupations.—These are chiefly of an agricultural nature. A good many men are employed in dairy work, a large amount of milk being produced in this area. Brickmaking and lime burning is also done, and a number of men are employed on the Southern and Great Western Railways.

There are no occupations which have a particularly injurious effect on the inhabitants.

Vital Statistics.

1925.

		Total.	M.	F.
Births	Legitimate,	180	96	84
	Illegitimate,	9	5	4
		189	101	88

Birth Rate, 14·3 per 1000 births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	65	62	127

Death Rate, 10·8 per 1000.

Infant Mortality—Deaths of Infants under one year of age

79 per 1000 births.

1921–1925.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Average for 5 years.	(England & Wales, 1925)
Birth rate per 1000	15·6	16.0	15.0	17.6	14.2	15.5	18.3
Death rate per 1000	9.4	10.9	9.1	8.9	10.8	9.8	12.2
Infant Mortality	37.0	45·4	45·4	37·2	79.0	48.9	75.0

Births.—The birth-rate is lower than it has been for the past five years, and also lower than that for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths.—The death-rate was above the average for this District, but lower than the general death-rate for England and Wales. The chief causes of increase were due to Cancer, Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, Whooping Cough, Violence, and Suicide. On the other hand, there were fewer deaths from Tuberculous Disease and Influenza. There were no deaths from any of the other Infectious Diseases.

No death occurred from Puerperal Sepsis or Accidents or Diseases of Pregnancy or Parturition.

Infant Mortality.—This was high. There were altogether 15 deaths of infants under one year. Of these, 7 were less than a week old and 5 were less than a day old. Twelve infants died from Congenital Debility and Malformation and Premature Birth. One infant was found in the river, and it is not known that it belonged to the District.

Causes of Sickness.—There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review. There has been a certain amount of overcrowding which is prejudicial to health.

	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
	ALL CAUSES	65	62
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	1	1
6	Diphtheria	—	—
7	Influenza	1	1
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	2
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	—
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	10
13	Rheumatic Fever...	—	—
14	Diabetes	—	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	5	4
16	Heart Disease	8	9
17	Arterio-sclerosis	1	1
18	Bronchitis	3	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	—
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	—	1
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	—
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	7	5
29	Suicide	2	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	2	1
31	Other Defined Diseases...	11	12
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—
	Special Causes (included above)		
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. Total	7	8
	Illegitimate	—	2
	TOTAL BIRTHS	101	88
	Legitimate	96	84
	Illegitimate	5	4
	POPULATION—		
	For Birth Rate	13,140	
	For Death Rate	11,760	

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis.—There are no Sanatoria in the District, but beds are available for cases at the following, through the County Council :—

The Hermitage Sanatorium, Whitwell, I.W.
St. Catherine's Home, Ventnor.*
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.
Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.
Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Home, Alton.*
Hawthorndene Sanatorium, Bonchurch, I.W.
Chandler's Ford Sanatorium.*
King George's Sanatorium, Bramshot.
The Firs Home, Bournemouth.
The Mount, Bishopstoke.

* Accommodation for Children.

Maternity.—Arrangements are made by the County Council for cases to be taken into the Royal Hants County Hospital, on payment.

Fever.—The Diamond Jubilee Hospital, belonging to the Rural District Council, is situated about three miles to the east of Winchester, in the Parish of Easton.

It consists of three separate blocks of iron buildings, with administrative portion and a caretaker's lodge and steam disinfector. It is lighted by electricity from the Council's own plant, which has recently been renovated. The water supply is from the Winchester public supply.

There are two chief buildings, one for Scarlet Fever and one for Diphtheria, there being also a small block for the treatment of other diseases, such as Enteric Fever. Each of the larger blocks consists of two wards, and will accommodate about 25 children.

A caretaker and his wife live on the premises. The man looks after the external needs of the Hospital, works the electric light plant and the steam disinfector. He also drives the motor ambulance. His wife acts as Nurse when we have only a few cases in the Hospital, extra Nurses being obtained when required.

During the past year 39 cases have been admitted, viz., Scarlet Fever, 32; Diphtheria, 7.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 10 did not belong to the District, but were sent in from the Workhouse in Winchester City. Also one patient was discharged after a week, as it proved not to be Scarlet Fever.

One of the Diphtheria cases was also sent out after a short period in the Hospital, as no Diphtheria germs could be found in the throat from repeated swabs which were taken. All cases were treated with Antitoxin, and made a good recovery. They remained in the Hospital until two consecutive swabs proved to be negative.

In the five years, 112 cases have been admitted, viz., Diphtheria, 16; Scarlet Fever, 93; Infantile Paralysis, 1; and two other cases in which there had been a wrong diagnosis. All the cases were discharged well, with the exception of the case of Infantile Paralysis, which was removed to the County Hospital when it was considered that the infectious stage was over.

Small-pox.—A Hospital for these cases, originally built by your Council and since purchased by the County Council, is situated in the Hursley District, about two miles to the west of Winchester, and is available should any cases occur in the Area.

For Other Diseases.—The Royal Hants County Hospital, situated in the Winchester Urban District, and supported by voluntary subscriptions and a contributory scheme, receives a large number of ordinary medical and surgical cases from this District.

Ambulance Facilities.—For infectious cases: A motor ambulance is provided by your Council.

For Non-infectious and Accident cases: A motor ambulance is obtainable from the Royal Hants County Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Maternity and Child Welfare: Micheldever, by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: Cases attend the County Council Dispensary in Winchester.

Venereal Diseases: A special time is arranged at the Royal Hants County Hospital for consultation and treatment.

Public Health Officers.—The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Medical Officer, Surveyor—part time; Sanitary Inspector—whole time.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—*General.*—This is carried out in most villages by District Nurses, chiefly provided by voluntary subscription.

For Infectious Diseases.—None provided.

Midwives.—There are 16 registered Midwives practising in the Area. They are under the supervision of the County Council.

Legislation in Force.

Local Acts.

Bye-laws are in force in the District with respect to :—

The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.
The Removal of House Refuse.
The Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools.
New Streets and Buildings.
Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshop Orders.

Adoptive Acts.—The following are in use :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts II., III., and IV.).

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—The District has a plentiful supply of wholesome water, either from public water works or from private wells.

The Southampton Corporation Waterworks supply a great number of houses between Twyford and Eastleigh. The water is obtained from a deep well in the Twyford district, and is very pure.

The City of Winchester supply many of the houses in the suburban portion, and a further public supply is obtained from Harestock for Littleton, Sparsholt, and Lainston. Both these have a plentiful and wholesome supply of water.

The Owslebury Waterworks supply this village only. A good supply of excellent water is obtained by means of an oil engine and pump from a well and bore-hole some 500 feet deep in the chalk. This is the property of the village.

All the supplies are continuous.

There are also a large number of wells in the outlying portions of the District. One or two complaints have been made, due to the water becoming turbid; but this has been remedied by having the covers and steining repaired, thus keeping out surface water.

There has been no case of illness due to water.

Rivers and Streams.—The Itchen, the principal river in the Area, is a beautifully clear chalk stream, and runs through a great portion of the Area. At one time it was considered that the washings from the tar-surfaced roads caused a good deal of chemical pollution which was very injurious to the fish; also on one occasion during the year it was found that a large quantity of sewage had been temporarily allowed to pass directly into the river from a district outside this Area. Serious notice of this was taken by the fishing owners, and the nuisance was abated and steps taken to prevent its future occurrence. At the present time no tar is used on the roads in the neighbourhood of the river.

Two cases of pollution during the year were dealt with by your Council and abated.

There is no evidence of any chemical or organic pollution at the present time.

The water is not used for drinking purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Drainage of new houses is carried out in accordance with the Bye-laws. Drains are tested with smoke or water. Seven nuisances and defective drains have been abated during the year.

Twyford is the only village in the Area which has a public sewerage system. This has now been in existence for nearly 50 years. The sewage is conveyed by gravitation to a meadow of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres to the south of the village, first passing into a settlement tank, and then flowing over the meadow by broad irrigation.

The village contains about 450 houses, and about half of these are situated so that they can connect up with the sewer, although a good many of them are not connected.

The sewer is flushed three times a year. The total cost of the scheme has been under £20 a year.

One or two complaints were made during the year as regards the sewage outfall. This had not received the attention

it should have done; consequently the sewage tended to collect in one portion of the ground, instead of being evenly distributed in the trenches. This was also partly due to cattle in the field treading down the trenches.

However, arrangements have now been made for the man who looks after the field to make more frequent visits, and it is hoped to fence the sewage field so as to keep cattle out.

No case of illness has been caused by the sewerage system.

The sewage outfall from Winchester City is also situated in the District. No complaints of any nuisance have been received.

Closet Accommodation.—A large proportion of the smaller houses and cottages have earth closets with a moveable pail. The old insanitary type of privy is very rare. In Twyford, about a quarter of the houses have w.c.'s and are connected with the public sewer. Another quarter could make use of it if they wished. There are also a large number of w.c.'s with cesspits in the Area. Cesspits are made water-tight in new houses in accordance with the Bye-laws, and generally rain water and bath water are excluded, the latter being received in a portable container and used for the garden.

In a few instances where these conditions have not been observed the cesspits have overflowed, being chiefly due to surface water getting into the cesspits when the rainfall was excessive. The complaints of overflowing cesspits have been very few.

Scavenging.—This is carried out in Twyford. A man is employed by your Council who goes round once a week and removes the contents of the bins, which are placed outside the premises. There is no doubt it is of considerable benefit to the village and much appreciated.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—All parts of the District have been regularly visited by me. I have also made numerous inspections with the Sanitary Inspector.

Details of the number and nature of inspections made will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.—All the Public Elementary Schools have been visited and inspected. The sanitary conditions and water supply is satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The General Housing Conditions in the Area are, on the whole, quite satisfactory. There is undoubtedly a shortage of cottages for the labouring classes, and steps are being taken by your Council to erect about 100 houses to remedy this deficiency.

The population is an increasing one, and is due not only to the natural increase, but partly to the number of larger houses which have been built in the neighbourhood during the past five years. Three hundred and five new houses have been built during that time.

Overcrowding is rather prevalent in many of the cottages, due chiefly to increase in the size of families. This should be very much reduced when the new cottages are built.

The general standard of houses is good. The character of defects found are due to damp walls and floors and leaky roofs, defective guttering, porous external walls, and lack of damp course. It is not uncommon to find brick floors in some of the older cottages. Dirty walls and ceilings are found, which are either due to age or tenants who are not over clean. There is often a want of larder accommodation, a cupboard being used with no ventilation or light. In some of the cottages there is no sink.

These defects are generally due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners, but no doubt in many instances is owing to neglect by the tenants.

Difficulties in Remedying Unfitness.—Owners complain of lack of funds, and say that cottage property does not pay. There has also been great difficulty in obtaining the right class of workmen to do the repairs. Sometimes the repairs could not be carried out whilst the cottages were inhabited, and there has been no other house for the tenants to move into.

However, continual inspections of defective property have been made, and a great deal has been accomplished in the gradual carrying out of repairs chiefly by informal action.

Water Supply, Closet Accommodation, and Refuse Disposal are generally satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS for the Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total	69
(*b*) As part of a muncipal housing scheme ...	—

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	0
(3) Number of dwelling--houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	—

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	37

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling -houses which were rendered fit—	
(*a*) By Owners	4
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ...	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 14

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

(*a*) By Owners 14

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 —

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

The following table gives the number of cases of notifiable disease occurring and deaths during the past five years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	3	1	4	2	6	16	0
Scarlet Fever ...	13	10	19	25	26	93	0
Erysipelas ...	2	0	2	1	4	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Pneumonia ...	4	2	0	10	2	0	12
Malaria ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	2	0	0	0	1	3
*Chicken Pox ...	—	—	18	4	—	0	0
Tuberculosis ...	12	13	14	26	15	0	37
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	0	0	2	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

*Chicken Pox was only notifiable during part of 1923 and 4.

Scarlet Fever.—This is undoubtedly one of our most troublesome infectious diseases. Although it is generally of a mild type, it is very infectious, and needs a long period of isolation, six weeks being the minimum time we keep them in Hospital.

Of late years it has been of a very mild type, and no doubt often cases are overlooked or put down to some gastric disturbance, in which case they remain in an infectious state and give the disease to others. We are also in the proximity of large towns, and in several instances it has been traced to this source. Some children have developed the disease the day after arriving in the District from a distance, and there had been no case in the vicinity for years.

Out of the 93 cases occurring in the five years, there were no deaths, all making a good recovery.

Last year we had 26 cases, which were spread out over 11 villages, the maximum being six in one village, divided amongst four families. So in no case was there anything approaching an epidemic. In seven villages it was limited to a single case.

I have visited practically every house where the disease has occurred. Most of the cases are immediately removed to the Diamond Jubilee Hospital, but in a few instances parents have refused to let the children go, and apparently in these cases there have been facilities for isolation at home, although in one instance a sister of a child contracted the disease.

Diphtheria.—During the past five years there has been an average of three cases a year. In 1925 there were six cases. Four in one village, three of which were in the same house. All made a good recovery.

I have immediately visited and seen that anti-toxin was at once given, if it had not already been administered. Swabs of the throat were taken to confirm the diagnosis. The Schick test has not been used. Swabs have also been taken of other members of the family or those in contact with the case.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by your Council for all necessitous cases.

Enteric.—The death from enteric fever was of a very doubtful diagnosis. The case died from intestinal hæmorrhage on the day it was notified, and no bacteriological or other confirmation of the disease was obtained.

The other case included as Enteric was certified as Paratyphoid. It was admitted to the Diamond Jubilee Hospital, but bacteriological examinations failed to confirm the diagnosis, and the case was discharged well in a week's time.

The third case, which was undoubtedly Enteric Fever, was a boy who was in a temporary camp in the neighbourhood, and came from London a few days previously and brought the disease with him.

I am glad to state that we have not had a genuine case of Enteric Fever, which was contracted in the District for many years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two mild cases were notified during the year, both of which were treated at home, and made a good recovery, the sight not being impaired. There have been four cases in five years, none of which caused any impairment of vision.

Tuberculosis.—New cases and mortality during 1925 :—

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	6	2	2	3	1	2	0

Practically all cases of Tuberculosis are notified to me, in a few instances where this has not been done enquiries have been made and a satisfactory explanation given. The notifications are forwarded by me to the County Medical Officer of Health, who, as Chief Tuberculosis Officer for the County, has to deal with them. There are a number of Tuberculosis Sanatoria available, and also open-air shelters are provided. During the year there have been six deaths from this disease. Disinfection has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—A very large amount of milk is produced in the area, there being 98 registered dairies and over 200 cow sheds. These have all been frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, whom I have accompanied on many occasions. A great many improvements have been made in lighting, ventilation, paving, and general cleanliness.

The Milk (Special Designation) Order is carried out by the County Council.

Meat.—Inspection of meat, both at the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops, are continually made by the Sanitary Inspector, and occasionally I have accompanied him. The Regulations of 1924 have been carried out.

There are no public slaughter-houses, but four private registered ones.

Bakehouses.—These have been visited and defects remedied, chiefly due to want of white-washing. There are no underground bakehouses.

Other Foods.—Inspections are carried out by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The supervising authority under the Midwives' Act is now the County Council.

Appended will be found details of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. E. ROBERTS, D.P.H.

Twyford, Hants,

April 1st, 1926.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

I made inspections and visits to premises, numbering 732, as set out below :—

Description of Premises.	Purpose of Visit.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Re-visits.	Total.
Dwelling-houses.	1. Complaints of the existence of Nuisances	44	81	125
	2. Tests to Drains	7	15	22
	3. For action under Housing Acts...	—	19	19
	4. Disinfection	39	8	47
Dairies and Cowsheds.	Routine Inspection, and re-constructions	224	—	224
Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses, Laundries, & Workplaces).	Routine Inspection, and complaints of contravention of the Factories & Workshops Acts	21	48	69
Slaughter-houses, Butchers' Shops, etc.	Inspection of Premises	164	—	164
Day Schools.	Inspection of Sanitary accommodation and ventilation ...	27	18	45
Miscellaneous, *i.e.*, Yards, Gardens, Ditches, etc.	Complaints and observation of Nuisances	13	10	23
			Total	738

Summary of Work done to Dwelling-Houses under the Public Health Acts, and the Housing Acts.

(1)	A total of 37 houses were repaired.	
(2)	Walls and ceilings cleansed and re-decorated	78
(3)	House roofs made water-tight - -	16
(4)	Windows repaired and new provided -	5
(5)	Floors repaired (both wood and cement) -	21
(6)	Rainwater gutters repaired and new provided	5
(7)	Doors repaired - - - -	7
(8)	Privy middens replaced by earth closets -	3
(9)	Cesspools cleaned out and ventilated -	6
(10)	Wells cleaned out and protected - -	10
(11)	Houses repaired under Housing Acts -	4
	(Notices served in 1924).	

Dairies and Cowsheds.

3 additional Cowkeepers were added to the Register during the year.

2 of the larger dairies in the District were re-modelled during the year, and these premises, together with the methods employed therein, may be regarded as a big step forward in the production of clean milk.

The general condition of the cowsheds continues to improve, but some difficulty was found in securing the removal of manure from the vicinity of the sheds and the draining of the yards.

Too much reliance is placed by Cowkeepers in general on straining the milk, rather than in preventing contamination by clean, dustless premises, the grooming of cows, and the use of clean overalls by milkers.

Meat Inspection.

There are 4 Slaughter-houses in use in the District, and 8 Butchers' shops.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and the Rural District Councils (Slaughter-houses) Order, 1924, became operative in the District on the 1st April, 1925.

By reason of Article 8 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, the inspection of home-killed meat was greatly facilitated.

Four of the butchers availed themselves of the advantages given in Sub-section (1) of Article 8, and gave written notice of intention to slaughter on fixed days at

fixed times, but it was found that 3 of these 4 slaughtered on other days than those fixed. In consequence, I had to request that 2 of them notify the Inspector upon each occasion of slaughter, and the third whose default was explainable reverted to the correct practice.

The use of the "Humane Killer" in all slaughter-houses was secured during the year in conformity with the Council's Byelaws.

I inspected 82 carcases, made up as follows :—

Bullocks - - - -	18
Pigs - - - -	41
3 Pig carcases were condemned and destroyed	
Sheep and lambs - - -	13
Calves - - - -	10
	82

Factories and Workshops.

69 Inspections and re-visits were made :—

Contraventions of the Acts numbered	3
Contraventions remedied - -	3

Offensive Trades.

There are 2 premises in the District scheduled as Offensive Trades, viz. : as blood-boilers, bone-boilers, fat-melters, etc. These premises are kept in very good order, and being situated in an open position, give comparatively little cause for complaint. A Knacker's Yard is attached to each of these premises.

Day Schools.

The Day Schools throughout the District are maintained in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The provision of dry earth or ashes in earth closets, and peat in urinals is becoming more regular.

Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out in 39 houses, and a quantity of clothing and bedding was removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

2 samples of Water were taken, and submitted to the M.O.H. for analysis.

Twyford Sewage Disposal.

Complaints were made during the year of the condition of the irrigation field at Twyford. Arrangements are now made that more frequent attention is paid to this work, and an improvement in its condition is to be seen.

River Pollution.

Cases occurred during the year of pollution of the streams draining into the River Itchen.

Action taken by the Council resulted in an abatement of this nuisance in 2 cases.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
F. TAYLOR,
Sanitary Inspector.

February 19th, 1926.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1925 (Supplementary).

The undermentioned Inspections were made by me during the month of December, as follows :—

	Inspections	Re-Inspections
Dwelling-Houses—P.H.A. - -	4	4
Housing Act -	4	4
Dairies and Cowsheds - -	21	—
Bakehouses - - - -	4	4
Nuisances - - - -	4	8
Disinfections - - -	2	—
Drainage - - - -	1	—
Total - - -	40	20

Meat Regulations, 1924.

Carcases of 4 heifers and 9 pigs were examined, and no signs of disease were found.

Number of new houses erected in the District in 1925 were 69, forty-seven of which State assistance under subsidy grant was claimed.

Number of Statutory Notices served in connection with dwelling-houses, 12.

F. HURST,
Sanitary Inspector during December, 1925.